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Application No. 09/997,137

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**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

**Claim 1** (currently amended): A centralized network storage system, comprising:

at least one diskless client, comprising a transforming device, which retrieves ~~extracts~~ a hard disk access command ~~from at least one interface signal sent originally~~ transmitted from the diskless client to a hard disk of the diskless client, and packs the hard disk access command and an identity number relative to the diskless client into a data package, and ~~encapsulates the data package into at least one network packet to be sent~~ delivers the package to through a network, wherein the ~~at least one interface signal~~ hard disk access command complies with a peripheral interface standard allowing for connecting of a peripheral device to a PC; and

a server, connected to the at least one diskless client through the network, comprising a centralized storage device divided into at least one storage area, each of which respectively corresponds to each of the diskless clients; wherein, after receiving the ~~at least one network packet~~, and unpacking the package, the server ~~reconstruct the data package from the at least one network packet~~, ~~extracts the hard disk access command and the identity number contained in the data package~~, and implements a requested disk access process corresponding to the hard disk access command contained in the package on the storage area ~~relative to the diskless client~~ represented by the identity number contained in the package ~~according to the hard disk access command~~.

**Claim 2** (previously presented): The centralized network storage system of claim 1, wherein the transforming device is an interface card installed in an expansion slot of the

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diskless client, and the expansion slot complies with the peripheral interface standard.

**Claim 3** (previously presented): The centralized network storage system of claim 1, wherein the peripheral interface standard is an Integrated Device Electronics (IDE) standard.

**Claim 4** (previously presented): The centralized network storage system of claim 1, wherein the peripheral interface standard is a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) standard.

**Claim 5** (currently amended): The centralized network storage system of claim 1, wherein the network ~~and the at least one network packet conforms~~ to an Ethernet protocol standard.

**Claim 6** (previously presented): The centralized network storage system of claim 1, wherein the network is a wireless network.

**Claims 7-9** (cancelled)

**Claim 10** (currently amended): A transforming device used in a centralized network storage system and installed in a diskless client, wherein the transforming device is connected to a server through a network, the transforming device comprising:

an interface circuit, used to receive ~~at least one interface signal~~ a hard disk access command originally transmitted from the diskless client to a hard disk of the diskless client and ~~extract a hard disk access command from the at least one interface signal,~~ wherein the hard disk access command ~~at least one interface signal~~ complies with a peripheral interface standard allowing for connecting of a peripheral device to a PC;

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a logical circuit, connected to the interface circuit, for packing both the hard disk access command and an identity number unique to the diskless client into a data package; and

a network controller, connected to the logical circuit, for ~~encapsulating the data package into at least one network packet and~~ delivering the at least one network packet package to the server through the network;

wherein, after receiving the package ~~at least one network packet~~, the server ~~reconstructs the data package from the at least one network packet, extracts the hard disk access command and the identity number contained in the data package, and~~ implements a requested disk access process on a storage area ~~relative to the diskless client~~ represented by the identity number contained in the package according to the hard disk access command contained in the package.

**Claim 11** (previously presented): The transforming device of claim 10, wherein the transforming device is an interface card installed in an expansion slot of the diskless client, and the expansion slot complies with the peripheral interface standard.

**Claim 12** (previously presented): The transforming device of claim 10, wherein the peripheral interface standard is an Integrated Device Electronics (IDE) standard.

**Claim 13** (previously presented): The transforming device of claim 10, wherein the peripheral interface standard is a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) standard.

**Claim 14** (currently amended): The centralized network storage system of claim 4, wherein the transforming device receives the hard disk access command through a PCI interface, then transforms the hard disk access command from PCI format to IDE format before the hard disk access command is packed into the package, at least one interface

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~~signal complying with the PCI standard is first transformed to at least one IDE signal which complies with the IDE standard by the transforming device, and the hard disk access command is then extracted from the at least one IDE signal by the transforming device.~~

**Claim 15** (currently amended): The centralized network storage system of claim 1, wherein the hard disk access command is a read, write, or controlling command, and the requested disk access process is to execute a read, write, or controlling operation on the storage area according to the hard disk command.

**Claim 16** (currently amended): The transforming device of claim 13, wherein the interface circuit comprises:

a PCI interface, coupled to the diskless client, for receiving the hard disk access command ~~the at least one interface signal~~ complying with the PCI standard; and

an IDE controller, coupled to the PCI interface, for transforming the hard disk access command from PCI format to IDE format before the hard disk access command is delivered to the logical circuit. ~~the at least one interface signal into at least one IDE signal which complies with the IDE standard, and then extracting the hard disk access command from the at least one IDE signal.~~

**Claim 17** (currently amended): The transforming device of claim 10, wherein the hard disk access command is a read, write, or controlling command, and the requested disk access process is to execute a read, write, or controlling operation on the storage area according to the hard disk command.

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